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and that if carefully done, it could not fail to be of immense practical use to lawyer and student alike.

There is room, however, for considerable difference of opinion as to whether in a work on the elementary principles of English law a profusion of notes is any great advantage. They are many who think the best results are obtained by having the student read the text of a work like Blackstone exclusive of editor's notes. Dr. Lewis, however, has written his work with a definite purpose clearly in mind, and, however much critics may differ as to the merits of that purpose, all must be agreed that he has certainly succeeded in producing "a mine of references to which one can turn when in search of information on any given point of law."

In many of the previous editions of Blackstone, there is plainly discernible a tendency to digest modern law with Blackstone as a sort of basis, but Dr. Lewis uses the notes as they should be used, for the purpose of elucidating the text, which it is well to note is in its unabridged form. In addition to his own notes he has selected the best from the editions of Archbold, Kerr, Christian, Coleridge, Chitty, Stewart, Sharswood and others, and has also cited every text-book and every case in which Blackstone has been referred to. He has thus accomplished the double purpose of combining his own thoughts with those of his predecessors thereby throwing much light on the text, and of giving us a many sided view of the law in its successive stages of development since Blackstone's time, thereby making his work thoroughly practical and eminently a book of to-day.

Still another feature of Lewis' edition, which is sure to find favor with many, is the translation into English of all the foreign phrases which occur so frequently throughout the commentaries, and the placing of them at the foot of the corresponding page of the text. Everything in the way of indexes, tables of cases cited, of foreign words and phrases is in its appropriate place. Baron Field's analysis, so valuable as a reference to the commentaries, is given complete.

Nothing, perhaps, serves better to show the estimation in which Blackstone is held than the numerous editions of his works which from time to time have been given to the world by men prominent in the profession. It has been said that what the *Principia* of Sir Isaac Newton was to natural philosophy, that the *Commentaries* of Blackstone have been to English law. They are indeed immortal. Each new edition gives them a new garb, and Dr. Lewis' work certainly adapts them more completely to present use. It will deservedly attain a high popularity with student, judge and practitioner.

J. A. M.

THE LAW OF SALES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY. By FRANCIS M. BURDICK, Dwight Professor of Law in Columbia University School of Law. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1897.

This volume constitutes the latest contribution to the "Students'

Series" of Little, Brown & Co. It is particularly adapted to the needs of students, not only by reason of the design and scope of the series of which it forms a part, but also because of Professor Burdick's experience in teaching, and his attempt in the present volume to overcome the difficulties most frequently encountered by students in the class-room. From this it results that all matters which belong properly to the field of pure contract or of tort, such as consideration, capacity of parties, mutual assent, illegality and fraud, are excluded, the student being supposed to have mastered them.

The book may be said to be rather an outline than a full and exhaustive treatise on the law of sales in all its ramifications. Yet the book suffers none on this account. The different views taken in different jurisdictions are succinctly indicated and the theories which go to support them advanced and discussed. In fact, the most noteworthy and commendable feature of the work is this same scholarly attempt to reconcile the present state of the law with its development and with the principles and theory of the English law. Professor Burdick has not devoted two-thirds of every page to citations, but he has selected a limited number of the leading cases, representative and illustrative of principles. Thus, though the book is not a digest of all the decisions, it is far from useless to the active practitioner, for it clearly presents the theory of the law of sales, illustrated and reinforced by the best of the cases.

A novel feature is the treatment of the provisions of the Statute of Frauds, bearing upon the sale of goods, in connection with the common-law topics to which respectively they relate. It is believed that this method will conduce to simplicity and ease of apprehension on the part of the student. The appendixes contain a sketch of the Continental legislation on the subject of sales, a copy of the English Sale of Goods Act, an outline of the legislation of the various states of this country and a valuable essay on "Judicial Interpretation of Factors' Acts." The book is printed and bound in the best style of the printer's art and is of a very neat appearance and handy size.

O. J. R.